

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**January 22, 2008**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan and Davida Irving were also in attendance.**

## **Appointment of Baseball Coaches**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Doug Michel and Matthew Moran as assistant varsity baseball coaches for the 2008 season and to advertise for a varsity baseball head coach carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

## **Award of Bids**

**The awarding of the bids was tabled until this meeting to give the School Committee time to review them. A motion (Hall, Butcher) to award the bid for propane gas for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to Littlefield & Sons Ltd. carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Tretheway) to award the mowing bid for the 2008-2009**

**fiscal year to Greenscape Mowing Service carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to negotiate with Rice's Construction Co. Inc. for the bus contract with the provision that we use one bus for 180 days of the year and no second bus carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **2008-09 Budget Work Session**

**The budget presented tonight is still \$12,114.43 in the red even though Mrs. Ryan, Dr. Irving, and Nancy Cole took their red pencils to the budget that was presented last week. Some of next year's requested items can be purchased this fiscal year. They also took a hard look at the teacher assistants' schedules and next year two positions can be eliminated. Included in the proposed budget is a step five special education teacher to work one-on-one with a student. This would free up other teachers currently working with this student to work with those students now covered by teacher assistants.**

**Mrs. Ryan explained each line item that was not level funded. In the education department, the teachers' wages are based on the mean and include the additional special education teacher. The Special Education Director's wages include a three percent increase. The wages for aides were increased by three percent and an additional \$8,000 was included for substitute teachers based on this year's usage. The wages for food service includes a three percent increase and the food service helper has been included in this line item instead of in with the custodians. The increase in benefits includes**

the new full-time teacher position and, for the first time, the health benefits for a retiree per the teachers' contract. A three percent increase was budgeted for the guidance counselor although this is currently being negotiated. Dr. Irving reported that the guidance counselor, who works two days per week, is doing an excellent job. Education/training/conferences increased by \$1,000 and travel went up almost \$1,000. A new line item is school-wide supplies and we will be using the state's contract with WB Mason to purchase the supplies requested by the teachers. The textbooks line item was reduced because some textbooks can be purchased this year. The maintenance contract/computer licenses line item includes \$8,400 for the administrator, \$35,000 for the tech coordinator, and \$8,000 for licenses. The sports line item was increased by about \$1,000 and includes a proposed increase from \$225 to \$230 per point. The other educational opportunities line item was reduced to reflect fewer students attending Close-Up next year.

In the building and maintenance department the wages are down because the food service helper's wages are now included in the proper line item. The maintenance supervisor stipend was increased by three percent, but committee members felt that this should remain as a stipend at \$10,000. The freight line item was reduced based on this year's usage to date. The electricity line item was increased to reflect this year's usage.

In the capital department the building improvements were level

**funded. The educational equipment was reduced as some computers will be purchased this year. Kitchen equipment was level funded and a sneeze guard will be purchased this year.**

**In the administration department the superintendent's wages reflects a three percent increase and the additional 11 days per year. A three percent increase has been budgeted for the principal and the clerical line items. Education/training/conferences line item was increased to reflect the professional development included in Dr. Irving's contract. The increase in software maintenance includes the fees to convert to the uniform chart of accounts. The equipment maintenance/copier lease includes a new photocopier for the school office with a \$3,750 service contract for the two copiers.**

**William Padien stated that approximately \$13,000 still needs to be cut from the budget because it can not be submitted to the town with more than a five percent increase. Several suggestions were made to balance the budget including reducing the number of hours the support staff works and negotiating with the bus company for only one bus for the school year. Shea Butcher suggested that the administration take another look at the budget to reduce it further before the School Committee starts to make cuts.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Tretheway, Padien) at 9:09 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: February 4, 2008**